

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 3, 5-7, 9-15, 17, 19-21, and 23-28 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 1, 5, 9-12, 15, 17, 19, 21, and 23-26 are amended, and claims 2, 4, 8, 16, 18, 22, and 29-30 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. No new matter is added. Support for the claims can be found throughout the specification, including the original claims, and the drawings. Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is thanked for the indication that claims 8-9 and 22-23 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the features of the base claim and any intervening claims. The allowable features of claims 8 and 22, as well as the features of intervening claims 2, 4, 16, and 18, have been added to independent claims 1 and 15, respectively. Accordingly, independent claim 1 and 15 should be in condition for allowance, along with claims 3, 5-7, 9-14, 17, 19-21, and 23-28, which depend, respectively, therefrom.

The Office Action rejected claims 29-30 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being allegedly indefinite. Claims 29-30 have been canceled. Accordingly, the rejection should be withdrawn.

The Office Action rejected claims 1, 2, 10, 15, 16, and 24 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Doepeke, U.S. Patent No. 3,762,581, and rejected claims 1-7, 11-21, and 25-28 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Austin, U.S. Patent No. 5,657,878, in

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view of Doepke. These rejections are moot in view of the amendments discussed above, and thus, should be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

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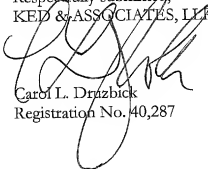
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To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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